

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication system for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by comprising:

means for holding a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway; and

local environment management means for confirming whether or not another device requesting for accessing to said device on said home network is present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request-source device of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway.

2. (Original) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 1, characterized in that:

one of said devices is a home server for legitimately acquiring contents, whereas the other of said devices is a client for making a request for said contents to said home server for use;

wherein, in response to confirmation of presence of both devices on said same home network, said home server provides said contents and/or issues a license for said contents to said client.

3. (Original) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 1, characterized in that:

two or more home servers are able to be installed on said home network;

wherein each of said home servers provides said contents and/or issues a license for said contents to said clients that is confirmed to be present on said same home network.

4. (Original) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 3, characterized in that:

said client is able to receive provision of said contents and/or issuance of said license for said contents from said two or more home servers on said same home network.

5. (Original) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 3, characterized in that:

said client is able to use said contents acquired from a plurality of home servers on said same home network, and, upon connection to a home server on an other home network, said client is not able to use said contents acquired from said home servers on said home networks other than said other home network.

6. Cancelled

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ device-to-device authentication system ~~according to claim 1,~~ characterized in that for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by comprising:

means for sharing the same identification information regarding said home network between said devices on said same home network; and

said local environment management means confirms whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network based on whether or not each of said devices shares the same identification information regarding said home network.

8. (Original) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 7, characterized in that:

each of said devices acquires a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway as identification information regarding said home network; and

whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not each of said devices has a MAC address of said same default gateway.

9. (Original) The device-to-device authentication system according to claim 7, characterized in that:

a local environment management apparatus for supplying network identification information is installed on said home network; and

each of said devices acquires a MAC address of said local environment management apparatus as identification information regarding said home network; and

whether or not each of said device is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not each of said devices has a MAC address of said same local environment management apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication method for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by comprising:

a step of holding a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway; and
a local environment management step of confirming whether or not another device requesting for accessing to said device on said home network is present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request-source device of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway.

11. (Original) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 10, characterized in that:

one of said devices is a home server for legitimately acquiring contents, whereas the other of said devices is a client for making a request for said contents to said home server for

use;

wherein, in response to confirmation of presence of both devices on said same home network in said local environment management step, said home server provides said contents and/or issues a license for said contents to said client.

12. (Original) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 10, characterized in that:

two or more home servers are able to be installed on said home network;

wherein each of said home servers provides said contents and/or issues a license for said contents to said clients that is confirmed to be present on said same home network.

13. (Original) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 12, characterized in that:

said client is able to receive provision of said contents and/or issuance of said license for said contents from said two or more home servers on said same home network.

14. (Original) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 12, characterized in that:

said client is able to use said contents acquired from a plurality of home servers on said same home network, and, upon connection to a home server on an other home network, said client is not able to use said contents acquired from the said home servers on said home networks other than said other home network.

15. Cancelled

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ device-to-device authentication method according to ~~claim 10, characterized in that~~ for authenticating a device on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by comprising:

a step of sharing the same identification information regarding said home network
between said devices on said same home network; and

in said local environment management step, whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not each of said devices shares the same identification information regarding said home network.

17. (Original) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 16, characterized in that:

in said local environment management step, each of said devices acquires a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway as identification information regarding said home network; and

whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not each of said devices has a MAC address of said same default gateway.

18. (Original) The device-to-device authentication method according to claim 16, characterized in that:

a local environment management apparatus for supplying network identification information is installed on said home network; and

in said local environment management step, each of said devices acquires a MAC address of said local environment management apparatus as identification information regarding said home network; and

whether or not each of said device is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not each of said devices has a MAC address of said same local environment management apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus for operating on a home network

connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by comprising:

means for holding a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway; and

local environment management means for confirming whether or not another device requesting for accessing via a home network connected said communication apparatus is present on said same home network to said device on said home network is present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request-source device of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway.

20. (Original) The communication apparatus according to claim 19, characterized in that:

said communication apparatus operates as a home server for providing contents on said network; and

wherein said communication apparatus further comprises content-provision means for providing said contents and/or issuing a license for said contents only to a device confirmed to be present on said same home network by said local environment management means.

21. (Original) The communication apparatus according to claim 19, characterized in that:

said communication apparatus operates as a client for making a request for contents to a home server for use on said network;

wherein said communication apparatus further comprises content-using means for receiving provision of said contents and/or issuance of a license for said contents only from a home server confirmed to be present on said same home network by said local environment management means.

22. (Original) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that:

two or more home servers are able to be installed on said home network;

wherein said content-using means receives provision of said contents and/or issuance of a

license for said contents only from two or more home servers confirmed to be present on said same home network by said local environment management means.

23. (Original) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, characterized in that:

said content-using means is able to use said contents acquired from a plurality of home servers on said same home network, and, upon connection to a home server on an other home network, said client is not able to use said contents acquired from the said home servers on said home networks other than said other home network.

24. Cancelled

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A communication apparatus according to claim 19,
~~characterized in that~~ operating as a client for making request for contents to a home server for
use, on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, characterized by
comprising:

means for sharing the same identification information regarding said home network
between devices on said same home network; and

said local environment management means confirms whether or not each of said devices is present on said same home network based on whether or not each of said devices shares the same identification information regarding said home network.

26. (Original) The communication apparatus according to claim 25, characterized in that:

said local environment management means acquires a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway as identification information regarding said home network; and

whether or not a device on other side of communication is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not said device on other side of communication has a MAC address of said same default gateway.

27. (Original) The communication apparatus according to claim 25, characterized in that:

a local environment management apparatus for supplying network identification information is installed on said home network; and

said local environment management means acquires a MAC address of said local environment management apparatus as identification information regarding said home network; and

whether or not a device on other side of communication is present on said same home network is confirmed based on whether or not said device on other side of communication has a MAC address of said same local environment management apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer program described in a computer-readable format so as to execute a process for authenticating a device, on a home network connectable to an external network via a router, on which a home server for legitimately acquiring contents from said external network and a client for making a request for said contents for use are present, said computer program characterized by comprising:

a local environment management step of confirming whether or not said home server and said client are present on said home network based on whether or not a MAC address of said request-source client of accessing is identified or non-identified with a MAC address of said router set as a default gateway; and

a content-provision step of providing said contents and/or issuing a license for said contents to said client by said home server in response to confirmation of presence of both said devices on said same home network in said local environment management step.